

Mayor's Message

January 2013

It is the beginning of another New Year! I am always surprised at how fast they come and always excited for the opportunities each year brings. 2013 marks the 15th anniversary of the first time I was inaugurated as the Mayor of Murray City. It also is the beginning of my last year in office.

Serving as the Mayor has been a highlight of my life. In future Murray Journals this year, I would like to reflect on some of the changes that have taken place during my administration. Please take the journey with me as I reminisce about our wonderful City.

One of the biggest changes happened in our City just as I took office. The smelter industry had been winding down for many years. The chimneys that stood as landmarks on the corner of 5300 South and State Street had been inactive for 50 years. The owners of this 100 acre plot in the middle of Murray were ready to sell the property. It took time for the clean-up to begin with all the mining materials that had been in place for many years. My staff and I spent much of my first two years in office working with many government entities to allow the remediation of this property so it could be a useful contributor to our City. Plans were originally in place for a large retail center to be built there. When the chimneys were dropped in August of 2000 and the site ready for redevelopment, it was sold to Intermountain Healthcare who placed the new regional Intermountain Medical Center on the property. The Smelter Site Overlay District was created to enforce the institutional controls that were required by the EPA. Intermountain Healthcare then leased a portion of corner to COSTCO to relocate the large warehouse store. This store is now the busiest one for the chain in the State.

While many people were sad to lose the towers that marked the center of the valley, a wonderful new facility has replaced them. It took tremendous effort and work to allow this property to be redeveloped in a way to make it useful again. I appreciate all those who participated in that project and feel the City is truly blessed to have the great partners who now call this important corner home. While it is sometimes hard to let go of history, we have wonderful ways to preserve it for those who will come in the future to learn about Murray City and our roots. I love the way this area represents progress, healing, and the legacy we will continue to promote here.

I look forward to sharing a City journey through the next few months with you. Happy New Year!